



News

August 2017

European Youth Championships & Venice Cup

England's four junior international teams did splendidly at the European Championships in Slovakia earlier this month. They all qualified for next year's World Youth Teams Championships in Shanghai. Three members of the OBA took part: Henry Rose in the Under-16s, where England finished 4th, and Siyu Ren and Ewa Wieczorek whose team took the bronze medal in the Under-26 Women's event.

At the end of the month our English National Women's Team played brilliantly to reach the final of the Women's World Championship (the Venice Cup), where they won the silver medal, losing to a strong Chinese team.

Oxford Bridge School Tasters

Oxford Bridge Club has been running free taster sessions for the Beginners courses in its Bridge School. There are still two to run: Wednesday 16th August at 10 am and Tuesday 22nd August at 7.30 pm. If you know anyone who'd like to see what it's all about, please encourage them to look at the lively <http://www.oxfordbridgeclub.com/> website or mail education@oxfordbridgeclub.com.

The Bridge School is taking booking now for its Beginners course and Improvers course, both starting in October.

Wallingford Bridge Club Swiss Pairs Event

Wallingford Bridge Club is holding a Blue Pointed Swiss Pairs at Roke and Berrick Salome Village Hall on Sunday 24th September 2017 (1.30pm start, finish about 7pm). £12 per person inclusive of refreshments and tea, 1st place prize £100, and other cash prizes. Entries and details: Barbara Antrobus, telephone: 01865 407858, barbara.antrobus@vdveen.co.uk or see <http://bridgewebs.com/Wallingford> or the County website.

Events

Joan Bennett and Jennie Griffiths won the Seniors Pairs this month. The next event is on Monday 14 August.

And don't forget the Chester Cup.

Golf, bowls, dining, fundraising... and euchre?

A tempting brochure dropped through my letter-box yesterday offering a winter holiday in Torremolinos combining sunshine with bridge and bowls. It struck me that even without leaving Oxfordshire most of our members combine bridge with other activities. All it takes is for a few to assist with the organisation and, *ta-dah*, you find teams of golfers from different clubs enjoying a friendly bridge challenge at the nineteenth hole. Or pairs will enjoy a promenade around a circle of restaurants, playing several hands in each and enjoying lunch in one of them, at the same time raising funds for a good cause. Today, during a chance conversation with a service manager I said, "No, our bridge club doesn't have a euchre section yet, but if you'd like to come along and run a teaching session, perhaps we can start one?" Similarly, if you have new sociable bridge idea, please do approach the OBA Social Team leader Annabel Wade or the chairman of your local club.

Sociable bridge

While Café Bridge is a relatively new form of bridge combining a sociable atmosphere with a competitive bridge game, an older sociable tradition continues once a week at Oxford Bridge Club, where rubber bridge has been played since the middle of the last century. Alas, I must report that a former Oxfam worker, gentle-speaking David Newell, recently passed away, but he impressed upon me many a time how he and others valued these friendly occasions. Bridge can be played in a competitive way without giving up its sociable aspect.

Many thanks to David Bygott for several contributions to this issue.

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